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Attachment to Z-13970/83
NPIC/IEG (9/83)
1 SEPTEMBER 1983SONDA IV LAUNCH PAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
BARREIRA DO INFERNO ROCKET RANGE, BRAZIL (SWN)

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: A SONDA IV LAUNCH PAD WAS IDENTIFIED UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT BRAZIL'S PRIMARY ROCKET RANGE. (SWN)

2. REMARKS: THE NEW LAUNCH PAD WAS IDENTIFIED UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE BARREIRA DO INFERNO ROCKET RANGE. PREVIOUSLY, A LAUNCH PAD CONSTRUCTED IN 1982 WAS IDENTIFIED AS A POSSIBLE SONDA IV LAUNCH PAD. HOWEVER, ATTACHE REPORTING INDICATES THAT THE PAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL BE USED FOR THE SONDA IV AND THAT THE PAD CONSTRUCTED IN 1982 WAS FOR AN UNRELATED SOUNDING ROCKET PROGRAM. (SWN/NOFORN)

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INITIAL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEW PAD WAS FIRST OBSERVED IN FEBRUARY 1983. IT WAS EXCAVATED ACROSS AN EXISTING ROCKET LAUNCH PAD ON THE EASTERNMOST EDGE OF THE LAUNCH AREA. IT WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 42-BY 7-METERS IN DIMENSION WITH A RECTANGULAR SHAPE AND ORIENTED NE/SW. ALSO, EXCAVATIONS BETWEEN THE BLOCKHOUSE AND THE PAD SUGGEST THAT THE LAUNCH PAD IS GOING TO BE CABLE CONNECTED TO THE BLOCKHOUSE. (SWN/NOFORN)

THE SONDA IV IS A LARGE TWO STAGE, SOLID-PROPELLANT ROCKET CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND WILL PROBABLY SERVE AS PART OF THE BRAZILIAN SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE ALSO UNDER DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THE SONDA IV COULD POSSIBLY BE USED AS A WEAPON DELIVERY SYSTEM. (SWN/NOFORN)

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3. COORDINATES 055500S 0350900W (S)

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4. COLLATERAL REFERENCE: USDAO BRASILIA, 6 809 5039 83 BARREIRA DO INFERNO ROCKET LAUNCH FACILITY, MAY 83 (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

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